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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

4 The disclosed apparatus and method for facilitating surface treatment of  
articles of manufacture of the type having a given handling surface, such  
6 as, for example, blank forms for optical lenses, includes a support for  
holding the article in a stable position, a source for sequentially aligning  
8 elongate stem elements in a desired orientation relative to the article, a  
mechanism for advancing a free end of the stem into contact with the  
10 article, and a securing mechanism [26] for attaching the free end of the  
stem element to the article so that the stem extends from the article to  
12 serve as a handle for manipulation and support during processing. The  
handle is removed by cutting or breaking away.

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